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Response to OA of 8/25/04

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 10 at lines 6-13 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 3 depicts a firewall adaptable for protection of a controlled-access network. The linked networks 300 depicted in FIG. 3 include the Internet 301 which is coupled, via router 302, to a controlled-access network 310 having a personal computer (PC) 306, a workstation 307, a printer 308, and a server 309. ~~via router 302.~~ Router 302 of FIG. 3 is generally included in firewall 104 represented in FIGS. 1 and 2. Preferably, DNS (Domain Name Server) server 303 HTTP server 304 and SMTP (simple mail transfer protocol) mail Gateway server 305 operate to allow communication between Internet 301 and controlled-access network backbone 310. DNS server 303 and HTTP server 304 generally allow limited forms of communication between controlled-access network backbone 310 and Internet 301.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10 at lines 14-25 with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, the extent of resource sharing generally available among workstations connected to a common controlled-access LAN would generally not be available between Internet 301 and controlled-access network 310 in the embodiment of FIG. 3. SMTP server 305 preferably allows messages to flow in both directions between Internet 301 and controlled-access network backbone 310. However, manual user intervention is generally required in order to allow tasks or functions which may be attached to email messages incoming to controlled-access network backbone 310 to be executed by a workstation, such as workstation 307, connected to controlled-access network backbone 310. Accordingly, tasks or functions communicated to destination workstation 307 by a workstation connected to controlled-access network 310-304 via Internet 301 would generally require manual user intervention, thereby preventing the efficiency and convenience of having such tasks or functions executed automatically.